

DALE SOUNDS WAR ALARM

Vermont Congressman, Back
from War Front, Says
"Cut the Red Tape"

AMERICA MUST
HASTEN EFFORTS

Wished He Had Easy-Chair
Department Fellows Along
with Him

The necessity for prompt action on the part of the United States in order to prevent German victory is emphasized by Congressman Porter H. Dale of the second Vermont district, who has just returned from a tour of inspection of the battle fronts in England and France. The interview as published by the Rutland Herald to-day is as follows:

"For God's sake wake up and realize what this war means!" American troops without guns, without enough blankets, without necessary equipment and wholly unprepared for the terrific struggle which they must face is a situation that sends Mr. Dale back to this country with but one desire—to impress on Washington and Vermont the tremendous peril and responsibility that faces this nation.

"Talk about a short war," said Mr. Dale in New York this week, "we shall be mighty lucky if we get through this war in two years, at such an expense and with such a loss of men as will run into hundreds of thousands."

"I wish I might say to every department head in Washington: 'Wake up!' I wish I could take them with me to Vimy ridge, where the guns do not crash or detonate, but just explode in one continual roar."

"I did not go into the front line trenches—I don't think it is any place for a civilian—but I walked among the stark, dead bodies of gallant Englishmen and Canadians, some of their faces crushed into the ooze and some—horribly changed and ghastly—upturned to the sky."

"Why unburied? Because men are so precious and the German aviators so vigilant that even a burying party in the open is immediately marked and cut down by their quick firing guns."

"Yes, I wish I had some of these easy-chair Washington department fellows at Vimy ridge, men who, after eight months of war, and not enough guns in France to equip our men, are still telling the newspapers that everything is all right! They seem to think we have done great things. Let me say that unless we

begin cutting red tape, eliminating lost motion, doing away with incompetent survivors of a worn out military system, stopping this foolish talk about a short war and get busy rushing (1) supplies, guns and munitions to our troops in France, (2) men, more men and men by the million, we are not going to win this war!"

"You can't put the appalling peril that confronts this nation, too strongly."

At Vimy ridge the party was so close to the firing line that they were required to wear gas masks and helmets.

Mr. Dale showed some signs of the ordeal of storm and stress that he and the other passengers and crew endured on the return trip from France. The city newspapers did not say much about it, as only a few passengers were aboard and only one seaman was lost in the gale, but the Vermont congressman says the big liner had her bows stove in by head-seas—a ragged, gaping hole being actually torn in the heavy steel plates by a wicked smash from a huge comb—her after-cabin door stove in and the smoking-room cabin and everything else between decks flooded.

One-half of the bridge was torn away bodily, the officer in charge and the wireless operator being swept from their stations and rescued by the crew almost by a miracle. One seaman was swept overboard and drowned in plain sight of everyone before a boat could be launched in the heavy seas.

This was the same storm which followed the Halifax disaster and Mr. Dale's ship was then about 500 miles from these coasts.

The voyage across was uneventful. The congressional party was deeply impressed with the speed and ability of the destroyer which conveyed the liner.

"Our boat used to be considered fast," said Mr. Dale, "but the destroyers are actually running around her. They are tremendously fast—about 35 or 40 miles an hour, I believe—and when they sight a submarine they chase her like a hawk."

"I understand the U-boat crews dread these speedy, quick firing boats more than anything else."

"We are making a great effort to turn out airplanes—and airplanes are greatly needed—but if we can build and commission destroyers we shall soon rid the seas of the submarine menace."

Mr. Dale's description of the voyage to and through the war zone is as dramatic in some of its details as the tempestuous return voyage.

The huge steel shuttle of a boat runs absolutely dark at night. The ports are closed from the outside and steel clamped beyond the power of a passenger to open them. Every necessary light is carefully

shaded, so that no faintest gleam can be seen a hundred feet away.

Blind, almost dumb and with every human nerve strained to the breaking point, the big shuttle hums through the night. If a door slams, a hatch falls or a heavy object is dropped, the whole ship is alarmed. Running feet, agitated voices and general excitement pervade the night; then the thing is explained and the passengers settle down once more to uneasy rest.

Under these conditions a voyage across is no pleasure trip in war time.

Congressman Dale had no trouble finding anything in France but the American troops. Although their numbers and location are, no doubt, thoroughly known to the enemy, a most mysterious silence met him everywhere. He actually had to "chase them up" himself, and he never would have found the Vermont troops—way back of the fighting line—if it had not been for some personal friends who told him where to go.

His own son, Timothy C. Dale, is with the Harvard hospital unit and he was discovered only after the most persistent search. Mr. Dale remained two days with the boy, the rest of the party going on to places of interest in the north of France.

Mr. Dale saw several hundred Vermont troops, Major Ashley, Captain Howe, General Sibert and General Edwards. The latter was full of praises for the Vermonters, and although he did not mention the much discussed affair of "splitting up the 1st Vermont," it was plain to Mr. Dale that it was not an account of the officers and men who are now doing their bit—so far as they can—in preparation for the big spring offensive.

Mr. Dale visited the Somme, the Marne, Soissons, Remy and Verdun.

On the latter hill he stood and looked over the shell-torn ground where the French made good their tremendous slogan, "They shall not pass!"

To-day, and as Mr. Dale saw it, the French and German guns exchange shots at long range. Five—perhaps six—miles away, he saw the swift dash of smoke and belching cloud that bespoken a big

gun fired, then, so long afterward that one could count heart beats, he heard the sullen boom of the report.

If it were a German gun—so much farther away—then perhaps one could trace the course of the shell and see where it buried itself in the earth and presently threw up a somber eruption of dust, smoke and debris.

In the villages of Albert, Bapaume and Peronne, the party found not one living inhabitant, just heaps of blackened stone, brick and shapeless debris. No one could conceive of more complete and utter desolation than in the villages first taken by the Germans and then retaken in this year's allied offensive.

The congressional party was entertained in London by Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, formerly here with the British mission, also at a more formal dinner at which Lloyd George, the speaker, the archbishop of Canterbury and other dignitaries were present.

"We were given the freedom of the realm," said Mr. Dale, "but there was no unpleasant formality or distressful ceremony. The dinners made me think of American banquets of the better class."

Mr. Dale expects to return to his district soon after the holidays and may tell at greater length his impressions of the war and its serious meaning.

They Only Fall Once.

As the stage coach careened toward the edge of the cliff the timid tourist gazed anxiously down at the brawling stream 300 feet below.

Do people fall over this precipice oft—she asked.

The driver clucked to his horses. "No, madam," he returned placidly, "never but once."—Chicago Herald.

The Trouble.

"Yes," said the cynical old sea captain, "when I was shipwrecked in South America I came across a tribe of wild women. Absolutely wild. They had no tongues."

"Good gracious!" exclaimed the listener; how could they talk?"

"They couldn't," was the reply. "That was what made them wild."—Ladies' Home Journal.

TIMBER SALES DOUBLE.

In National Forest During the Past Year.

Sales of national forest timber in the fiscal year 1917 were more than double those of 1916, according to the annual report of the forester. The total amount sold exceeded two billion feet and is valued at more than \$3,715,000. During the same period about 727 million feet were cut and removed, for which the purchasers paid \$1,507,303 into the federal treasury. The largest sales were made in Oregon, where about 688 million board feet were disposed of.

In addition to the timber sold, approximately 113 million board feet valued at almost \$150,000 was cut under free use permit by more than 41,000 settlers living near the national forests and depending on the forests for firewood and building material to improve their homesteads.

The timber business on the eastern purchase areas, while still small as compared with the western forests, showed a decided increase, the report states. More than three times as much timber was sold and more than twice as much cut as in 1916. The material disposed of, it is pointed out, is largely of poor quality and its removal will improve the forest growth.



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17-26

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